

Disarmament Talks Resumption Is Urged

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The United States has asked Russia to agree to a date at the earliest possible time for reopening 17-nation disarmament talks at Geneva aimed at negotiating an expanded nuclear test-ban treaty and an agreement to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

Administration officials, awaiting a Soviet reply, said they see little prospect of any

real progress in either of these fields in the near future. In their view the whole range of U.S.-Soviet relations is more or less paralyzed by the Vietnamese war situation.

The request for agreement on an early date to start disarmament talks again was made by U.S. disarmament policy chief William C. Foster in New York a week ago to Soviet disarmament expert Semion K. Tsarapkin. It was the latest in a number of U.S. efforts to reopen disarmament negotiations. Tsarapkin reportedly said he would have to refer the matter to Moscow.

Fresh attention was focused on the nuclear proliferation problem Wednesday in a Senate speech by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) who called on President Johnson to make non-proliferation "a central priority of American policy."